UCLA Faculty Association

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Saturday, September 13, 2025

Straws in the Wind - Part 100

From Inside Higher Ed: *Clemson University is scrapping a number of faculty and staff commissions that were set up to advise university leaders about how to support specific groups. The now-sunsetted groups included the Accessibility Commission, the Asian Pacific Islander DESI American Commission, the Commission on the Black Experience, the Commission on Latino Affairs, the LGBTQ Commission, the Veterans Commission and the Commission on Women, according to the Internet Archive. Clemson officials said in a news release Wednesday that "the commissions have successfully fulfilled their important charge, making a lasting impression on the value, strength and growth of the Clemson community and our campus."*

The right-wing think tank the Heritage Foundation, in a report released Tuesday, listed the Clemson commissions as an example of ways that universities and K–12 schools are continuing "DEI activities" following Trump's crackdown on diversity, equity and inclusion programs, officers and personnel...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/09/04/clemson-ends-several-faculty-and-staff-affinity-commissions.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Clemson U, diversity, politics

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 59

From the NY Times: *The Trump administration says it will restart the flow of federal research money to Harvard University, following a judge's ruling that a sweeping blockade of funds was illegal, according to five people familiar with the matter and documents reviewed by The New York Times. The government's decision to restore the funding appeared to be a response to the judge's ruling, and not a broader shift in its stance toward Harvard. The administration has said it would appeal the judge's decision and maintain its pressure campaign against the university.*

...It was not clear how widespread the restorations were, or when the government would actually begin to pay Harvard. It is possible that funding will be disrupted again, even if the government begins making payments. The Justice Department, for example, could seek a stay of last week's decision by Judge Allison D. Burroughs, who sits on the federal bench in Boston, and ask the court for permission to suspend the funding once again while its appeal proceeds.

...A spokesperson for Harvard said that the university had begun to receive notices of reinstatements of many of the terminated federal awards. The notices came from a range of federal agencies, the spokesman said, adding that the university had not received any payments yet.

The White House declined to comment...

At Harvard, federal research money has lately accounted for roughly 11 percent of the university's revenue, according to its most recent financial report. Most of the federal research money that pours into Harvard comes from the Department of Health and Human Services. But an array of federal agencies, including NASA and the intelligence community, directed funds to the university in 2023...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/10/us/harvard-research-funding-trump.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard, politics, public funding

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- Liner Note 38. The University of California's Charlie Kirk Tribute Act - 9/16/2025
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Something is missing: Information

On Sept. 8, Chancellor Frenk put out a written and video message ostensibly on the strategy and outlook for UCLA. It alludes to the obvious difficult situation without much (any?) detail. It lists longer term general goals, but not what to do, or should be done, about the current situation of frozen grants and the larger conflict with the feds.

The problem is that the Regents, the UC president, and seemingly the governor, are where the decision locus is. And so the key information - what is being done - is missing.

The video message is below:

Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxSHF18KWR0.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: governor, Milliken, politics, Regents, UCLA

Friday, September 12, 2025

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 58

From the Harvard Crimson: *The National Institutes of Health began allocating some grants to Harvard in July to comply with a federal court ruling. But Department of Government Efficiency officials have quietly blocked all the funds at the last mile, withholding money because the University has not reached a settlement, according to four people familiar with the matter, including NIH staff.*

The NIH resumed issuing some grants in mid-July to schools, including Harvard, that had been barred from receiving federal dollars under April guidance, according to an internal memo obtained by The Crimson. But officials from DOGE, the government cost-cutting group, used their control over the NIH's payment system to keep the money out of researchers' hands...

The extent of DOGE's role in quietly obstructing NIH grant disbursements to universities — even after the agency was legally compelled to begin restoring some awards in July — has not been previously reported. And it suggests that, even in the absence of a formal stay or injunction, DOGE may use its power over federal payments to continue to quietly sidestep the Wednesday ruling that directs the Trump administration to reinstate the more than $2.7 billion in federal grants to Harvard that the administration froze or terminated in the spring...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/9/8/doge-blocks-nih-grants/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard, politics, public funding

Straws in the Wind - Part 99

From the US Dept. of Justice: *The United States is challenging Illinois laws providing in-state tuition and scholarships for illegal aliens. These laws unconstitutionally discriminate against U.S. citizens, who are not afforded the same reduced tuition rates or scholarships, in direct conflict with federal law. On Tuesday, Sept. 2, the Department of Justice filed a complaint in the Southern District of Illinois against the State of Illinois, Governor Pritzker, the State Attorney General, and the boards of trustees of state universities in Illinois seeking to enjoin the State from enforcing the Illinois laws and bring them into compliance with federal requirements.*

In the complaint, the United States seeks to enjoin enforcement of Illinois laws that requires [sic] colleges and universities to provide in-state tuition rates for all aliens who maintain Illinois

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Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

residency, regardless of whether those aliens are lawfully present in the United States. Federal law prohibits institutions of higher education from providing benefits to aliens that are not offered to U.S. citizens. The Illinois laws blatantly conflict with federal law and are thus in conflict with the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution...

Full news release at https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-files-complaint-challenging-illinois-laws-providing-state-tuition-and.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, U of Illinois

UCAD - Part 2

There is more news regarding the (unfortunately named?) UCAD task force. It seems, however, that events could easily outpace even the expedited consultation process being pursued. See the letter below:

Academic Senate Division Chairs

Divisional Senate Executive Directors

September 8, 2025

Re: Faculty Feedback on the UCAD Interim Report

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Academic Council, I request your assistance in facilitating faculty feedback on the Interim Report and Recommendations of the Academic Senate Task Force on UC Adaptation to Disruptions (UCAD). This report, recently transmitted to you, President Milliken, and Provost Newman offers a blueprint for potential actions and strategies to ensure the University's continued excellence in teaching, research, and public service amid growing and unpredictable external threats that may require a rapid response. UCAD seeks broad faculty engagement as it continues its work this fall with an updated member roster and develops additional recommendations to strengthen UC's ability to address emerging challenges in a nimble way while allowing for as much consultation as possible, and while preserving its core mission.*

Recommendations for Dissemination

It is important that all faculty have an opportunity to review this interim report, given its wide-ranging implications for UC's future and potential impact on faculty. Division chairs are asked to place the UCAD Report on the agendas of their divisional executive committees/councils at the earliest opportunity and determine the most effective mechanisms for sharing it with faculty. Divisions may wish to consider options such as:

1. Sharing the report through divisional Representative Assemblies;

2. Hosting town halls or other forums to engage faculty in discussion;

3. Engaging department and program chairs to agendize the report in fall faculty meetings;

4. Using college and school Faculty Executive Committees to distribute information and gather feedback.

Feedback Submission

To ensure that faculty perspectives are incorporated into UCAD's final recommendations, Senate divisions are asked to:

1. Submit letters and comments from Senate executive committees/councils and other divisional committees directly to UCAD Chair Palazoglu (ahmet.palazoglu@ucop.edu) with a copy to: AcademicSenateUCAD@ucop.edu.

2. Summarize and transmit input from any town halls or special meetings to Chair Palazoglu and AcademicSenateUCAD@ucop.edu.

3. Invite and encourage individual faculty to send comments directly to AcademicSenateUCAD@ucop.edu.

Feedback will be accepted on a continuous basis throughout the fall term.

The collected input will inform UCAD's final report to Senate divisions, as well as the president and provost. Specific UCAD recommendations that advance toward implementation are expected to undergo full systemwide Senate review, except for in any emergency situations where such a review is not feasible.

We recognize that this request departs from normal review procedures in both form and timing. However, the urgency of the issues addressed in the UCAD Report requires a more flexible

approach to faculty consultation than the standard 90-day systemwide review—one that draws on both traditional Senate review mechanisms and direct engagement from faculty.

Senate leadership is ensuring that shared governance is respected, and faculty perspectives are included even in situations where it is not possible to use our conventional mechanisms.

Based on the positive responses to Senate leadership in emergency planning from the UC administration, parallel discussions are now underway with senior leaders at UC Office of the President to establish as soon as possible joint Senate-administration structures for collaboration.

This expanded effort will build upon the Senate's interim report, complement the Senate's ongoing work through UCAD, and strengthen shared governance.

Thank you for helping to ensure this important conversation reaches faculty across the system and reflects their input. Your leadership in encouraging feedback will be critical to ensure that UC remains resilient and responsive to disruption while preserving its core mission and values.

Sincerely,

Ahmet Palazoglu

Chair, Academic Council

cc: Academic Council, Provost and Executive Vice President Newman, Senate Executive Director Lin

Source: https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/council-chair-to-senate-divisions-re-review-of-ucad-interim-report.pdf.

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*https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/committees/ucad.html; https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/council-president-provost-senate-divisions-ucad-interim-report.pdf.

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Note: Our previous post on this matter is at:

https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/08/ucad.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: Milliken, UC

Thursday, September 11, 2025

Straws in the Wind - Part 98

From the NY Times: *An online group said that it was behind a number of recent hoax emergency calls that drew a heavy law enforcement response to college campuses across the United States and were timed to coincide with the start of the school year. The group, which calls itself Purgatory, highlighted news media coverage of the recent hoaxes in a public-facing channel on Telegram, an encrypted messaging service often used by criminals. The online group is suspected of being connected to several of the episodes, including reports of shootings, according to cybersecurity experts, law enforcement agencies and the group members' own posts in a social media chat. The group's claims could not be independently verified...*

Twice in the final weeks of August, Villanova University responded to reports of a gunman on campus, which later the authorities determined to be false. On Aug. 25, at least six colleges, including the University of Arkansas, experienced lockdowns for similar threats that turned out to be bogus. And on Wednesday, the false alarms continued at Auburn University in Alabama and Texas Tech University...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/30/us/school-shooting-hoax-universities-purgatory-swatting.html.

From the Daily Cal: *UC Berkeley has provided the personal information of roughly 160 students, staff and faculty to the federal government in a directive from the UC Office of the President. In an attempt to comply with an investigation into alleged campus antisemitism by the Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, or OCR, UC Berkeley released the names of individuals and their "potential connection" to reports of alleged antisemitism...*

Full story at https://www.dailycal.org/news/campus/uc-berkeley-turns-over-personal-information-of-more-than-150-students-and-staff-to-federal/article_a4aad3e1-bbba-42cc-92d7-a7964d9641c5.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Auburn U, diversity, Texas Tech U, U of Arkansas, UC-Berkeley, Villanova

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